**Soil Erosion and Degradation**

*Directions:* After you read pages 279-283, answer the following questions on the separate sheet of paper.

1. What is land degradation?
2. Soil is considered to be a renewable resource. However, this can be debated. Why?
3. What are the main causes of soil erosion?
4. Why is soil erosion so harmful?
5. Describe how serious the problem of soil erosion is across the world.
6. “Soil in the United States erodes faster than it forms…but since 1987 erosion has been cut by about two-thirds.” Indentify what has helped to decrease this erosion and explain the affects it has had.
7. The Dust Bowl of the 1930’s taught us many lessons. What caused this Dust Bowl (be sure to descried all events!)? What type of economical effect did it have on the country? What type of legislation resulted from the Dust Bowl and how is it helping us today?
8. In your own words, describe what desertification is. Is it affecting us here in the US? If so, where and how? What could result from this?
9. Irrigation is usually thought of as a good thing because it brings water to plants that need it. However, it causes two things: salinization and waterlogging. What are these and why are they bad for soil?
10. We are all responsible for helping to prevent soil erosion. Describe three things you personally can do to help decrease the amount of soil erosion that takes place. Be creative!

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